5

## We claim:

- 1. A method for the treatment of asthma in a patient, comprising administering to the patient a composition comprising delipidated and deglycolipidated *M. vaccae* cells, wherein the delipidated and deglycolipidated *M. vaccae* cells comprise less than 10% by weight of lipids.
  - 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the composition is administered intranasally.
  - 3. The method of claim 1, wherein the composition is administered subcutaneously.
- 10 4. The method of claim 1, wherein the composition additionally comprises an adjuvant.
  - 5. A method for the treatment of asthma in a patient, comprising administering to the patient a composition comprising delipidated and deglycolipidated *M. vaccae* cells, wherein the delipidated and deglycolipidated *M. vaccae* cells comprise more than 33% by weight of amino acids.
  - 6. The method of claim 5, wherein the composition is administered intranasally.
  - 7. The method of claim 5, wherein the composition is administered subcutaneously.
  - 8. The method of claim 5, wherein the composition additionally comprises an adjuvant.